

### SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends the Claim 4 to correct an improper multiple claim dependency. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-8 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 8 are independent.

### REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention relates to wave plates using at least two transparent resin films having a function of giving a phase difference to a transmitted light. One advantageous effect of the present invention is that Applicants can obtain optical disc devices having not only an ability of recording information on these various optical discs of different systems but also an ability of reproducing information from them by the use of the above wave plates.

A conventional wave plate having a constitution such that the retardation films are bonded to each other has a problem that in-plane aberration is changed by long-term continuous use and excellent properties initially obtained cannot be retained.

Conventional retardation films independently incorporated into a laser optical system without bonding them has other problems in that deviation occurs in the relation between the optical axes of the retardation films because of vibration or the like given when the wave plate is used, and as a result, properties of the wave plate are lowered. Specification at page 6, line 17 to page 7, line 18.

To solve the above problems, the inventions of Claims 1 to 4 includes the features that the retardation films are not bonded to each other in the laser beam transmission area and further the retardation films are bonded to each other in at least a part of other area than the

laser beam transmission area. Furthermore, the inventions of Claims 5 to 8 include the features that the retardation films, and the retardation film and the glass substrate are lamination-fixed respectively with different adhesives which are selected from the specific adhesives (A) and (B).

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,747,720 ("Saiki").

Saiki discloses a polarizing plate with an optical compensation film. In particular, Saiki discloses a polarizing plate, an adhesive layer A, an optical compensation film, and an adhesive layer B adhered to one another. Saiki at abstract. With the polarizing plate with an optical compensation film in accordance with Saiki, by making the specific elastic modulus of the adhesive layer A, it is possible to relieve the stress generated by the difference in dimensional change between the polarizing plate and the optical compensation film, which may be caused by heat generated from the backlight, for example.

Saiki discloses that the elastic modules of the adhesive layer A is 0.06 MPa or less, and that the elastic modulus of the adhesive layer B is at least 0.08 MPa. Saiki at column 2, lines 9-13.

Saiki discloses

A polarizing plate according to the present invention can be used as an optical element laminated with other optical layers. There are no particular limitations regarding the optical layers, and for example it is possible to use one or two or more suitable optical layers used in the formation of liquid crystal displays or the like, such as a reflecting plate, a semitransparent reflector, **a retardation plate** (including  $\lambda$  plates such as half wavelength plates and quarter wavelength plates), a viewing angle compensating film, and a brightness enhanced film. Saiki at column 4, lines 12-21 (emphasis added).

However, Saiki fails to disclose a wave plate having two or more retardation films. Furthermore, Saiki does not disclose the wave plate for the optical disc devices which must

have two or more retardation films. So, the demands for the wave plate against a laser are not disclosed in Saiki.

Saiki fails to disclose:

the independent Claim 1 limitations of a "wave plate comprising **two or more retardation films**, wherein the retardation films are **not bonded** to each other in the laser beam transmission area";

the independent Claim 5 limitations of a "wave plate comprising **at least two retardation films** which are laminated on each other, on at least one surface of said laminated retardation films a glass substrate being laminated, wherein the retardation films, and the retardation film and the glass substrate are lamination-fixed respectively with different adhesives which are selected from the following adhesives (A) and (B): ...a **difference in Young's modulus** at 23°C between the adhesive (A) and the adhesive (B) is **40 MPa or more**"; and

the independent Claim 8 limitations of "laminating **at least two retardation films** on each other and laminating a glass substrate on at least one surface of the laminated retardation films, wherein the retardation films, and the retardation film and the glass substrate are lamination-fixed respectively with different adhesives which are selected from the following adhesives (A) and (B): ... a **difference in Young's modulus** at 23°C between the adhesive (A) and the adhesive (B) is **40 MPa or more**".

Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Saiki should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Saiki in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2007/0003775 A1 ("Ushino"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Ushino is not prior art to the above-identified application. Ushino is the U.S. national stage of PCT/JP04/02220, which published as WO/2004/079412 on September 16, 2004, in the Japanese language and describes the invention of Takuhiro Ushino, Masayuki Sekiguchi and Tatsuya Hirono. The above-identified application is the U.S. national stage of PCT/JP04/17800, filed November 30, 2004, and describes the invention of the same inventive entity, Takuhiro Ushino, Tatsuya Hirono and Masayuki Sekiguchi. Because Ushino is not prior art to the above-identified application, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Saiki in view of Ushino should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of certified copies of "All" of the priority documents by checking the appropriate box on a Form PTOL-326.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the AW and AX references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 16, 2006, by initialing the associated Form PTO-1449. The Office Action asserts "references not provided". However, Applicants did provide these references. Applicants note that these references can be accessed through the U.S. Patent Office's Private PAIR system.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Corwin Paul Umbach". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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